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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 26, 2005

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**TWO SENTENCED TO LENGTHY PRISON TERMS FOR RELIGION-LACED FRAUD
SCHEME CLAIMING ACCESS TO \$9 BILLION IN FROZEN MARCOS FUNDS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ROBERTA DUPRE, a/k/a "Roberta Claire Dupre-Cox" and BEVERLY STAMBAUGH, a/k/a "Sue Stambaugh," were sentenced late Friday by United States District Judge DENISE L. COTE in Manhattan federal court to 168 and 108 months of imprisonment, respectively, for operating a fraudulent scheme in which the defendants used religious references to induce investors to pay money which the defendants claimed would be used to obtain the release and distribution of approximately \$9 billion in frozen funds purportedly belonging to the family of former Filipino president Ferdinand Marcos.

In March 2004, DUPRE and STAMBAUGH were charged in an Indictment alleging that from October 2002 to February 2004 they operated a scheme to defraud potential investors out of hundreds of thousands of dollars in "advance fees" by inducing investors to wire money into DUPRE's bank account in Montrose, Colorado, and to Western Union in New York, New York. According to the

Indictment, DUPRE and STAMBAUGH advised potential investors that they had been working with a member of the Marcos family who was the alleged "trustee" and "principal signatory" for an account containing the \$9 billion in frozen funds. As described in the Indictment, DUPRE and STAMBAUGH told investors that advance fees were necessary to pay the travel expenses of a Filipino "dignitary" who would travel to the United States and sign a release for the funds which then could be disbursed by DUPRE and STAMBAUGH to investors. DUPRE and STAMBAUGH promised investors a return of approximately \$1 million for every \$1,000 invested, with approximately \$500,000 going to the investor and approximately \$500,000 going to the person who referred the investor to DUPRE and STAMBAUGH.

Trial commenced on October 12, 2004. At trial the Government introduced into evidence, among other things, numerous weekly e-mails sent by DUPRE and STAMBAUGH to the victims of their scheme which showed how the defendants used references to religion to induce victims to give them money. For example, in an e-mail dated January 22, 2003 STAMBAUGH wrote, "If you pray to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, please pray that the spirits of fear and doubt be taken away from you. Then thank him for the wonderful blessings that will be coming to you shortly. Know that He is under control of this whole project." In another e-mail dated February 21, 2003, STAMBAUGH wrote, "99% of you have incredible patience and I so want to thank you. There are a few

who think that Roberta and I can hurry this along. God will release these funds when He is ready and He appears to be getting ready. Roberta says let us all be on our best behavior, so that He feels confident that He can trust us with such huge blessings." In addition, the e-mails frequently cited biblical passages to shore up the victims' belief in the scam, e.g. Proverbs 3:5, Hebrews 11:1, Luke 6:38, and Galatians 6:9.

According to proof offered at trial, DUPRE and STAMBAUGH collected nearly \$2 million over a two-year period and spent their victims' money for personal expenses, including financial gifts to their family members and an expenditure of \$252,089 by DUPRE for her lodging and incidentals at a Manhattan hotel.

DUPRE, 62, resides in Manhattan.

STAMBAUGH, 56, resides in Montrose, Colorado.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their work in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney BRET R. WILLIAMS is in charge of the prosecution.

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